

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.
CARRIED IN ADVANCE.
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Richmond Dispatch.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1880.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

(Entered at the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.)

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, falling, possibly preceded by stationary barometer, west shifting to warmer south winds, with increasing cloudiness and possibly rain.

THE WEATHER SATURDAY was clear and cooling. At night it was cloudy and threatening.

TERMINOLOGY: SATURDAY: 6 A. M., 58; 9 A. M., 57; noon, 61; 3 P. M., 66; 6 P. M., 57; midnight, 50.

Mean temperature, 58.

ARABIAN'S ARTICLE.

Intended for the Ladies Only.

CONTAINING A CHAPTER ON SPRING FASHIONS—DECORATIVE CONCEITS—DINNER PARTIES—CHOICE BITS OF SOCIAL GOSPEL—MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE DURING AND AFTER LENT.

Dear Dispatch: A so-called "fashion article" giving a résumé of the styles introduced by the fickle goddess to prevail through the coming season, has long been considered absolutely indispensable to your fair readers, and as the spring brings with it a necessity for a change, the artist's pen has been usually directed through the winter months, heralding with delight the advent of the lighter fabrics which are already beginning to make their appearance in the various fashion emporiums.

It will be safe to predict in general terms that there will be no startling variety in the spring styles from such as have been popular throughout the winter, though the advance, or rather retrogression, is very perceptible towards the fashions of long ago, when our grandmothers rejoiced in short waists and plain skirts, and preached the doctrine, not far from truth, that "simplicity is beauty."

Fashion has since ceased to mean "what to wear," and I should by myself open to the charge of "old foginess" if I confined myself strictly to the toilette, although, of course, that claims the first place on the list of "WHAT IS FASHIONABLE."

Chints, percale, calico, pique, and muslins are already coming in in new and stylish patterns, in which is noticeable a decided tendency to the Dolly-Varden style so much in vogue several years ago. The present style of short dresses, so delightful to the owners of pretty feet and well-turned ankles, renders this fashion a specialty. The more particularly so in connection with the bouffant over-skirts, which the best authorities on such subjects declare will continue to be worn throughout the spring and summer.

Neckties are worn longer and wider than ever, some being as much as twenty inches in width. They are made of silk, and some of silk grenadine. The brocade patterns so much in vogue during the winter months will continue to be worn throughout the spring. They form the material for handsome walking-suits, and are trimmed with plain material in the center.

The fashioning of the hair is also undergoing a change, owing to the unusually warm weather, and indeed nothing is more generally popular for street-wear than the fine French casimers, which come in in every possible tint. The casimers now are extremely simple, both for the day and for evening wear. The hair is arranged low on the forehead, with a simple loop or plait behind. The Elizabethan ruff, too, threatens to become the rage; large ruffles with wire in them to keep them erect are now worn with the square-necked corsage, and give a very picturesque appearance to the costume.

The latest thing in gloves has a cuff of what I suppose might be christened kid lace. It is intended to have somewhat the effect of lace at the end of the glove, and is made of kid cut and worked so as to imitate lace. This is especially appropriate for evening wear where the arms are bare.

One of the

NEW TREASURES OF FASHION

which seems to have become quite popular is the introduction of the small sizes of Japanese fans for dinner fans. They are covered with satin or silk in gay colors, and painted with flowers or the owner's monogram, or both, as fancy may dictate. Monograms, indeed, seem to be in vogue everywhere, and with good reason. They have long since been ornamented in this way, but now it is the prescribed method of marking handkerchiefs, card-cases, underwear, and even parasols.

Another innovation, which, I confess, does not meet with such hearty approval, is the introduction of flat-topped hats, which are intended to supersede, or at any rate equal in popularity, the long-established horse-shoe. Now, how the light horse could manage to raise its head elastic from the side of a horse's head is, I must admit, a problem I could not solve. I must, however, still horses' feet to the ground, and the flat-topped hat, which is so much in vogue, is a very readily brought ourselves to associate flowers with the time-honored emblem of good luck, for surely nothing could ever become connected with anything so good and holy as the lines of the field. But where, when, or how did you ever see a bright little flower in close contact with that eminently respectable and useful but equally hideous utensil known as a flat-iron? Answer to this, we patrons of decorative art, and we will cease to cavil at what, till then, we had considered an utter violation of propriety to be placed in the same category with the fragrant but taste of some worthy housewives who see fit to place in a prominent position in their drawing-rooms great green cucumbers and yellow tomatoes made in wax, which would be relegated to a place on the kitchen dresser, along with the flat-irons, did they but venture to make their appearance in the house in propria persona.

One of the

NEWEST FASHIONS FOR BRIDAL PRESENTS

is the wall or panel-mirrors, which threaten to supersede the mantel and pier mirrors of long ago. An exquisite design represents a lovely clump of Easter lilies on the wall frame; the sunlight resting on the heads of the lilies, and the flowers themselves with their golden glory, while those growing a little lower down are in deep shadow. In the opposite corner of the frame, low down, and painted so that a few of the lower blossoms rest on the mirror, are some cool drooping lilies reflected with exquisite effect, you may discover a lot of yellow crocuses, whose freshness is positively startling. The effect of the whole is really brilliant, and would, I think, render the gift one worthy to be cherished with the inevitable silver tea-service, without which no bride of nowadays seems to feel herself fully equipped.

Luke, Fields's lovely picture of "Betty the Milkmaid," which some of your readers may remember to have seen at the Centennial, has suggested another idea in decorative art, which I think worth mentioning. The "milkmaid-stool," so long the property of the milkmaid, who milks the cow with the crumpled horn, has been forcibly wrested from her to serve as a foot-

LOCAL MATTERS.

The New Railroad.

PREPARATIONS FOR WORK—OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE NEW COMPANY—THEIR NEW QUARTERS—SURVEY—CROSS-TIES AND TELEGRAPH-POLES WANTED, &c.

The work of completing the arrangements for commencing operations on the Richmond and Alleghany railroad was pushed forward on Saturday by the officers and Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the company, who are still in the city, and fair progress was made, although much still remains to be done. Mr. H. C. Parsons, the vice-president of the company, and Mr. J. W. Whitcomb, the consulting engineer, were engaged in preparing the advertisements and invitations for proposals for furnishing many thousand cross-ties, poles for the telegraph line, and for building several bridges on the Buchanan and Clifton-Forge divisions of the road.

Mr. Parsons, who has displayed the most remarkable energy and skill throughout the whole of the negotiations (which, it seems, will soon result in giving to the State this long desired road, is, as well known, the vice-president of the road, and will have the general management of the affairs of the road. Mr. Parsons is a gentleman of high standing for the success of this great enterprise, and his many friends here and elsewhere in Virginia fully appreciate his intelligence and the untiring efforts he has made to bring about the result which all so heartily desire. The following is a complete list of the officers of the company:

George M. Bartolomew, president; H. C. Parsons, vice-president; Sheppard H. Parsons, secretary and treasurer; and the following other directors: Francis O. French, Conrad N. Jordan, Samuel Sheath, Hugh McCulloch, of New York; Cyrus A. McMillen, of Chicago; a gentleman of high standing in Columbus, Ohio; James G. Blaine, of Augusta, Me.; Charles E. Wortham, of Richmond, Va.

Messrs. Alexander and Green, of New York, are the counsel of the company, and Lawrence Myers, of New York, financial agent of the company. The Richmond and Alleghany Railroad Company will commence operations as soon as the liens on the property of the company have been disposed of.

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Richmond, March 6, 1880.

The Illumination Problem.

While Edison, Sawyer, and a host of other electricians have been racking their brains over the electric-light question, an English inventor has thrown all other sources of light in the shade by bottling up daylight (so to speak) and using it for the illumination of the interior of a room. The inventor has arranged for no less eminent authority than the London Engineering. W. H. Balmain, formerly of University College, London, has for forty years pursued the vocation of a manufacturing chemist. Being aware that certain earths and some kinds of salts have the property of absorbing light rays for a given time, he set to work to compound a material which could not infallibly depend upon to absorb luminous elements while exposed to the action of light and emit them again when the light was withdrawn. After patient study and unremitting labor for a long period, succeeded in producing his "luminous paint," which is protected by letters patent. This is to be applied to the interior of rooms, walls of buildings, buoys in harbors and casks, clock-dials, &c.

The nature of the luminous ingredients of the paint is kept a secret, but it is said to be wholly extracted from the common chalk of Albion's cliffs. The material is conjectured to be sulphide of calcium, which is prepared by heating lime and sulphur in proportion. The process is explained by predicting that the waves of light break upon the molecules of the sensitive material and cause molecular vibration, which continues long after the inciting cause is removed. This explanation is very simple, and the reader will at once understand that the motion of the light is not activity cannot be stopped, but must go on until, like a clock, it is run down. We all know how difficult it is to go to sleep when we are thoroughly awakened, and how painful it is to be wakened when enjoying profound slumber. We speak of the clock going on for some time after dark, and the motion continues a certain length of time. A train of cars cannot stop instantaneously. It is no longer necessary that in the absence of light we should be plunged into darkness. Even the rising and setting of the sun is accompanied by twilight. So the molecular motion imparted to the chalk goes on for some time after dark. This motion sets up a succession of other waves, which, although they may not of themselves be light, have all the appearance of light when they impinge upon the surface of the eye. The effect is described as something like that of the sound of a bell which continues for some seconds after the clapper is struck. Our authority informs us that clock-dials have for some time been covered by this material in France. As Mr. Balmain's patent does not extend to this country, we shall see abandoned his electric experiments and gone into the luminous paint business.—Rochester Chronicle.

[The late Rev. Dr. Jeter more than once said that the cheapest of lights would be found in some such substance as that referred to above.]

Preserving Wood with Lime.

(American Building News.)

The improved French method of preserving wood by the application of lime is found to work well. The plan is to pile the wood in a tank, and to put over it a layer of quick-lime, which is gradually slaked with water. Timber for mines requires about a week to be thoroughly impregnated, and other wood more or less according to its thickness. The material acquires remarkable consistency and hardness, it is subject to being subjected to this simple process, and the assertion is made that it will never rot. Beechwood prepared in this way for hammer and other tools for iron work is found to acquire the hardness of steel, without parting with any of its well-known elasticity or toughness, and it also lasts longer.

"Paper, Mr. No charge, if you don't find Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup in it."—Adv.

Capitol Notes.

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The subject letter from Professor Shepherd proves that either Mr. Barbour, the member of the committee, or Mr. Thomas, has not told the truth. They can settle among themselves the question of the truth of these statements.

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I will not characterize the tone and temper of the letter from Mr. Thomas, but I will say that I do not think it will put the House out of conceit of the overwhelming vote by which it decided yesterday that there ought to be a thorough reorganization of Blacksburg College; nor does it in any way diminish the force of my remarks here, nor even now that the severity of temper at Blacksburg which is usually ascribed to the Academic Grove—a double locus a non lucendo in this case, for there is no grove, and but scant serenity.

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Speaker B. W. Lacy, of New Kent, was elected judge of the Eighth circuit on Saturday. He received 109 out of the 111 votes cast. He received all the votes cast in the circuit, and with an experience of twelve years' service on the canal, has been appointed general superintendent of the canal and taken charge.

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General R. Linday Walker has been designated to take the inventory of all the personal property of the company.

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Adjourned.

RICHMOND ART ASSOCIATION.—The third annual exhibition of the Association will be held at the Virginia Opera-House, and will be open on the evening of the 12th (Monday) next, and remain open for a brief season of two weeks. The exhibition promises to be a most interesting one, and is most creditably and thoroughly enjoyable.

There will be no pictures in the collection that have been exhibited here before, and the exhibition will pertain more to the modern school of art, as the names of some of the most noted artists of the day are recognized among the exhibitors. The paintings are loaned by artists both in New York and Boston, and the various artists of this State will add to the contribution. The annual circulars have been distributed very generally, but if there is one either in or out of the State possessing any rare work of art not exhibited heretofore by the Association, the committee will gratefully accept the receipt of the same. It is understood that all articles are packed, forwarded, and returned free of charge, and will be insured both in transit and whilst on exhibition.

Every possible encouragement should be given this Association, as it is one in which the city and State should feel a pride.

The last exhibition was a success, and for this display even a greater one is predicted. It is intended to vary it agreeably with music and other attractions during each evening throughout the season.

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RUNAWAY.—Saturday afternoon about 7 o'clock a horse attached to a buggy belonging to Mr. George H. Palmer, of the city, was found on the run on Broad street, and ran off. The runaway team came to a halt near Ford's Hotel, but not before the vehicle was considerably injured.

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